



PATENT

Applicant: Steven D. Clark Confirmation No.: 8607
Serial No: 10/625,352
Filing Date: July 23, 2003
Art Unit: 1722
Examiner: Joseph S. Del Sole
Title: **LINEAR FLOW EQUALIZER FOR UNIFORM POLYMER
DISTRIBUTION IN A SPIN PACK OF A MELTSPINNING
APPARATUS**
Atty Docket: NOR-1119

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Date: January 5, 2006

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

DECLARATION UNDER RULE 131

I, Steven D. Clark (the inventor), being duly cautioned and sworn, submit this
Declaration in response to the Office Action dated September 19, 2005, and state:

That I am the inventor of the invention entitled "Linear Flow Equalizer for
Uniform Polymer Distribution in a Spin Pack of a Meltspinning Apparatus" described and
claimed in the application for Letters Patent of the United States, Serial No. 10/625,352, filed
July 23, 2003 ('352 application);

That this is a Declaration under the provisions of Rule 131 and the rules of
practice for the United States Patent Office in support of said '352 application;

That prior to December 31, 2002, the filing date of U.S. Patent Publication
Number 2004/0126454 in the name of Haynes et al., the invention described and claimed in the
present application was reduced to practice in the United States of America;

That, as evidence of the reduction to practice of the invention described and

claimed in the '352 application, attached and incorporated into this Declaration are copies of original written records made by the undersigned inventor, bearing dates prior to December 31, 2002, but with said dates masked;

That the attached Exhibit includes engineering drawings of an apparatus for distributing thermoplastic material supplied from a plurality of liquid inlets in a cross-machine direction of a meltspinning apparatus that clearly demonstrate that such apparatus embodying the elements claimed in claims 1-24 of the '352 application, were reduced to practice by the undersigned inventor before December 31, 2002;

That the reduction to practice of the invention claimed in pending claims 1-24 of the '352 application is fully supported by the attached Exhibit, all acts having been performed in the United States of America before December 31, 2002, but with said dates now masked;

That the Exhibit demonstrates as follows:

That an apparatus for distributing thermoplastic material supplied from a plurality of liquid inlets in a cross-machine direction of a meltspinning apparatus was conceived of, made, and tested, and thus reduced to practice, before December 31, 2002;

That the apparatus, in one embodiment, included a first linear flow equalizer including a first plurality of flow passageways of substantially equal path length that extend in the cross-machine direction and in a downstream direction non-aligned with the cross-machine direction, said first plurality of flow passageways operating to divide a flow of a first thermoplastic material supplied from the plurality of liquid inlets into individual streams having a spaced relationship in the cross-machine direction; and a member disposed in the downstream direction from said first linear flow equalizer, said member having a surface oriented in the

cross-machine direction and positioned relative to said first plurality of flow passageways for merging the individual streams exiting from said first plurality of flow passageways to form a sheet of the first thermoplastic material;

That the apparatus, in one embodiment, included an inlet plate having a plurality of flow passageways for the thermoplastic material, the flow passageways being spaced substantially equidistantly from each other in the cross-machine direction; a first equalizer plate positioned in a downstream direction from said inlet plate and having a first plurality of elongated slots each centered about one of said plurality of flow passageways, each of said first plurality of elongated slots receiving a flow of the thermoplastic material from one of the flow passageways, and each of said first plurality of elongate slots extending in the cross-machine direction and including opposed closed ends substantially equidistant from one of said plurality of liquid passageways; a second equalizer plate positioned in the downstream direction from said first equalizer plate, said second equalizer plate having a first plurality of throughholes each substantially registered in alignment with one of said opposed closed ends of a corresponding one of said first plurality of elongated slots, each of said first plurality of throughholes receiving a flow of the thermoplastic material from one of said first plurality of slots, and said first and second equalizer plates cooperating to divide the flow of the thermoplastic material supplied from the plurality of flow passageways into individual streams having a spaced relationship in the cross-machine direction; and a member disposed in the downstream direction from said second equalizer plate, said member having a first surface oriented in the cross-machine direction and positioned for merging the individual streams exiting from said first plurality of throughholes to form a sheet of the first thermoplastic material.

Therefore, in summary, the attached Exhibit discloses and supports the reduction to practice of the apparatus for distributing thermoplastic material supplied from a plurality of liquid inlets in a cross-machine direction of a meltspinning apparatus that is the subject of and is claimed in Application Serial No. 10/625,352, all the acts of which occurred in the United States of America BEFORE December 31, 2002, and thus precede the effective filing date of U.S.

Patent Publication Number 2004/0126454.

Further affiant saith naught.

By SD Clark
Steven D. Clark

Date 1/5/2006

STATE OF GEORGIA)
COUNTY OF DAWSON)

2006

Sworn to and subscribed in my presence this 5th day of January

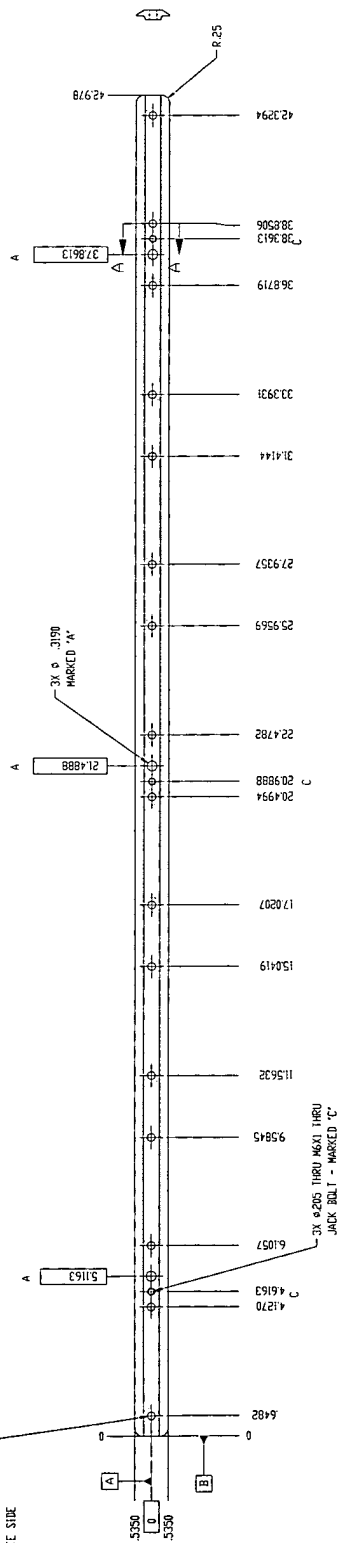
(SEAL)

Judith Hunsford
Notary Public

EXHIBIT



16X @ 250 THRU
1 @ 500 10 7
OPPOSITE SIDE



A horizontal beam is shown with a triangular load increasing from 0 at the left end to 63 kN/m at the right end. A vertical reaction of 63 kN acts upwards at the right end. A square box labeled 'C' is positioned below the beam, connected to the reaction point by a vertical line.

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">D23051</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1500002 43</div> </div> <div> Nordson Corporation One Skyview Boulevard, Georgia 30257-0672 Atlanta, Georgia 404-255-7131 </div> </div>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Nordson </div>	
PLATE, DIST. - SHEET FORMING	
DO NOT SCALE USE DIMENSIONS ONLY	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> SHEET DIMENSIONS 11 1/4" x 11 1/4" </div> <div> SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0" </div> <div> SHEET NO. 1 OF 1 </div> </div>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> SHEET AREA: 128.00 SQ. FT. SHEET WEIGHT: 128.00 LBS. </div> <div> SHEET NO. 1 OF 1 </div> </div>	
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1. MATERIAL: EXISTING HILLS SPURBOND SPINPACK INPUT PLATE.

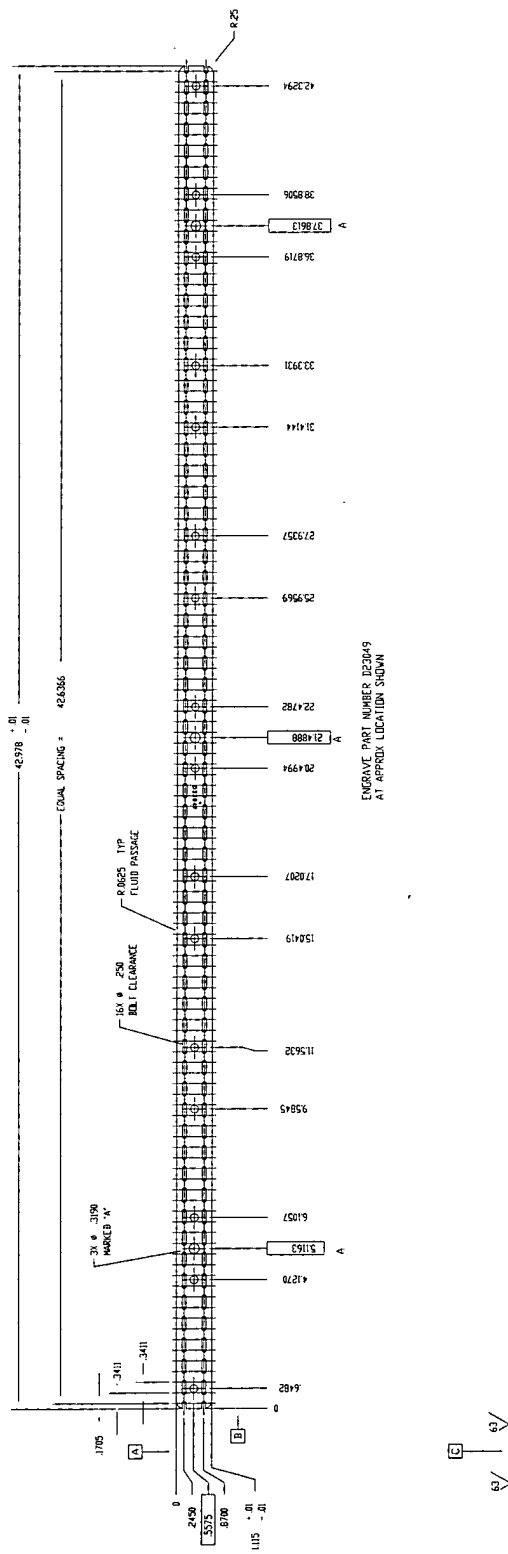
2. MACHINE FINISH FOR ALL NEW FEATURES:

3. ALL DIMENSIONS IN THIS DRAWING ARE ONLY RELATED TO THE FEATURES THAT NEED TO BE MODIFIED.

4. GENERALLY ALL NEW FEATURES GENERATED SHOULD BE SYMMETRICAL TO EXISTING RELATED FEATURES.

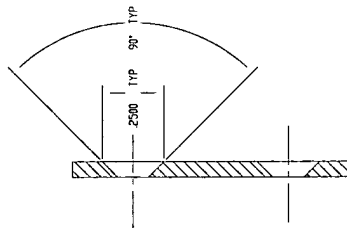
[illegible]

- NOTES
- 1) MATERIAL - 0625 +/- .005 THICK 17-4 SST (AS-5 OPTIMUM)
 - 2) DEBURR SQUARES

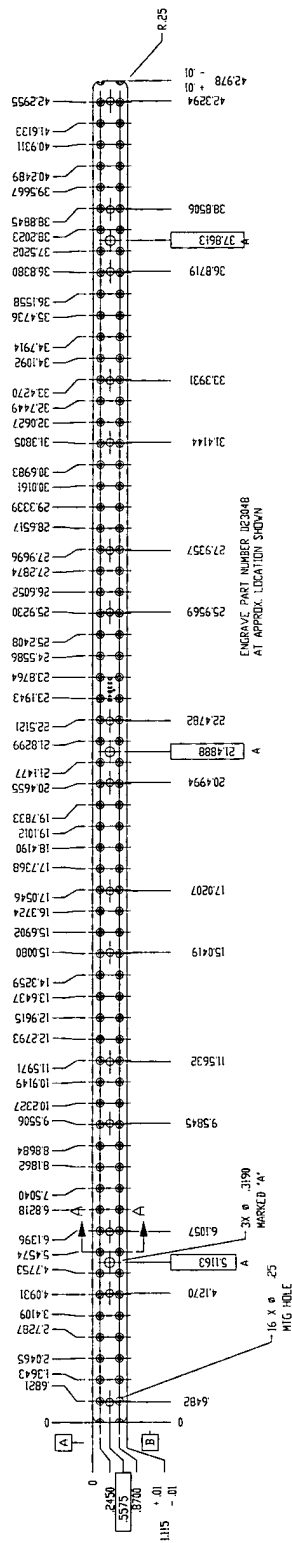


D23049 REVISED NO.		Nordson Corporation One Spring Way Atlanta, Georgia 30344-4412 Tel: 404/511-1000 Fax: 404/511-1001	
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06/01/00	100	06/01/00	1

- NOTES
1) MATERIAL: .0625 +/- .005 THICK 17-4 SST (15-5 OPTIONAL)
2) DEBURR SHARPS



SECTION A-A
SCALE 4 : 1



63/

63/

C

[illegible]

NOTES



2000

Washington Corporation

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

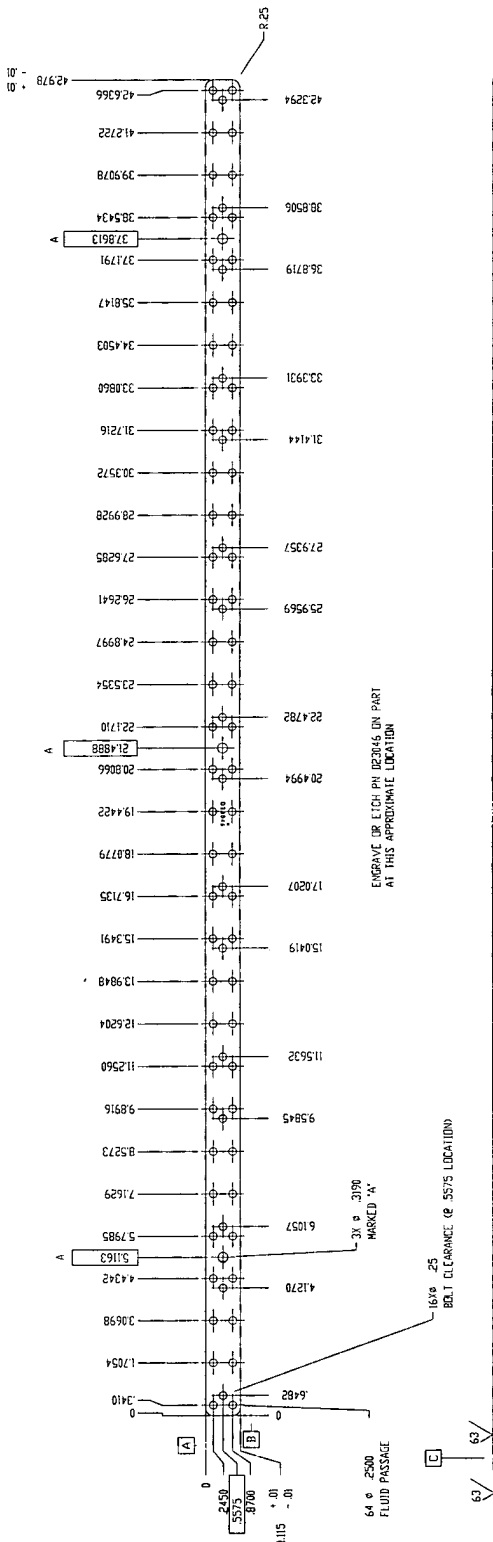
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REC	1	P.V. HOTEL MEX. CO. / CORONA RD	SPC	██████████	WITH AMERICAN CORPORATION MANUFACTURING AND	ORDER NO.	DRONE	SOC	DATE	██████████	██████████	MO	DAY	SITE

BEC	A	I	INITIAL RELEASE	SOC	[REDACTED]	ENCLOSING SYMPOSIUM [REDACTED]	COO SOC DATE [REDACTED] DEC 07 1968	D230A7D
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[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5
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NOTES
1) MATERIAL: .0625 +/- .005 THICK 17-4 SST (15-5 OPTIONAL)
2) DEBURR SHARPS

[illegible]

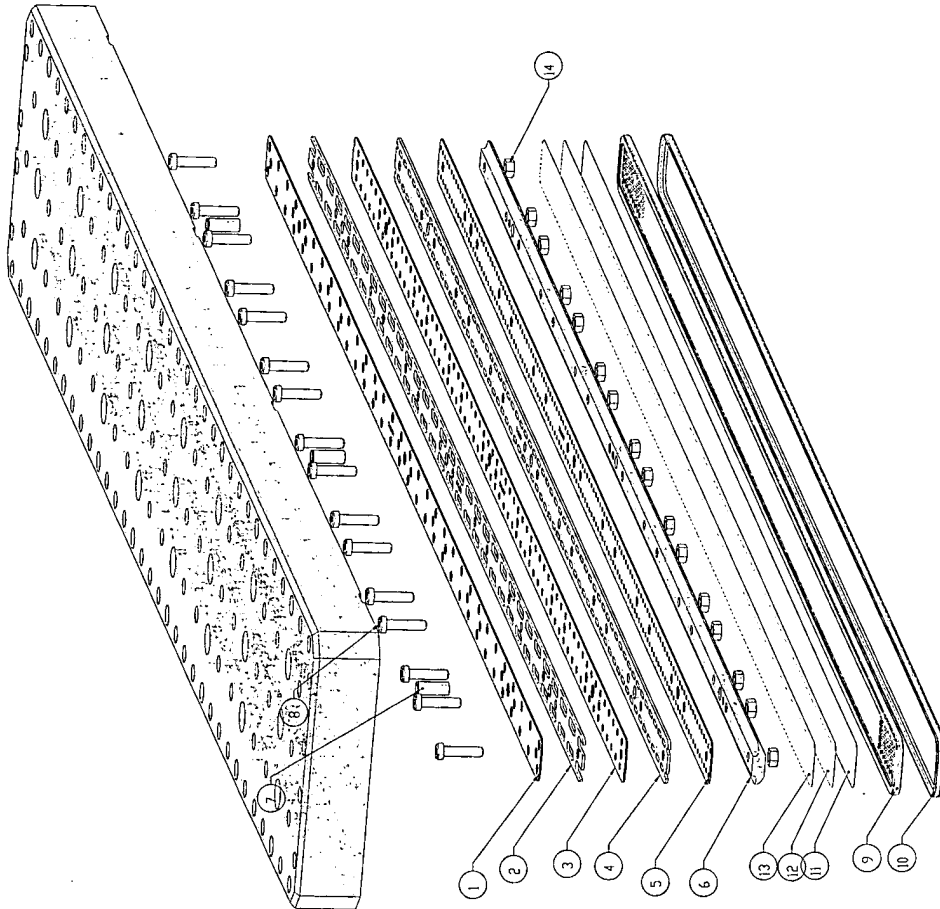
This diagram shows an exploded perspective view of a multi-layered assembly. The components are numbered as follows:

- 1**: A large rectangular plate with a grid of circular holes.
- 2**: A long, narrow strip with a series of small holes along its length.
- 3**: A long, narrow strip with a series of small holes along its length.
- 4**: A long, narrow strip with a series of small holes along its length.
- 5**: A long, narrow strip with a series of small holes along its length.
- 6**: A long, narrow strip with a series of small holes along its length.
- 7**: A long, narrow strip with a series of small holes along its length.
- 8**: A long, narrow strip with a series of small holes along its length.
- 9**: A long, narrow strip with a series of small holes along its length.
- 10**: A long, narrow strip with a series of small holes along its length.
- 11**: A long, narrow strip with a series of small holes along its length.
- 12**: A long, narrow strip with a series of small holes along its length.
- 13**: A long, narrow strip with a series of small holes along its length.
- 14**: A long, narrow strip with a series of small holes along its length.

The assembly is held together by a series of bolts and nuts. The bolts are shown passing through the layers, and the nuts are shown on the opposite side. The diagram illustrates the exploded view of the assembly, showing the relative positions of the components and the fasteners.

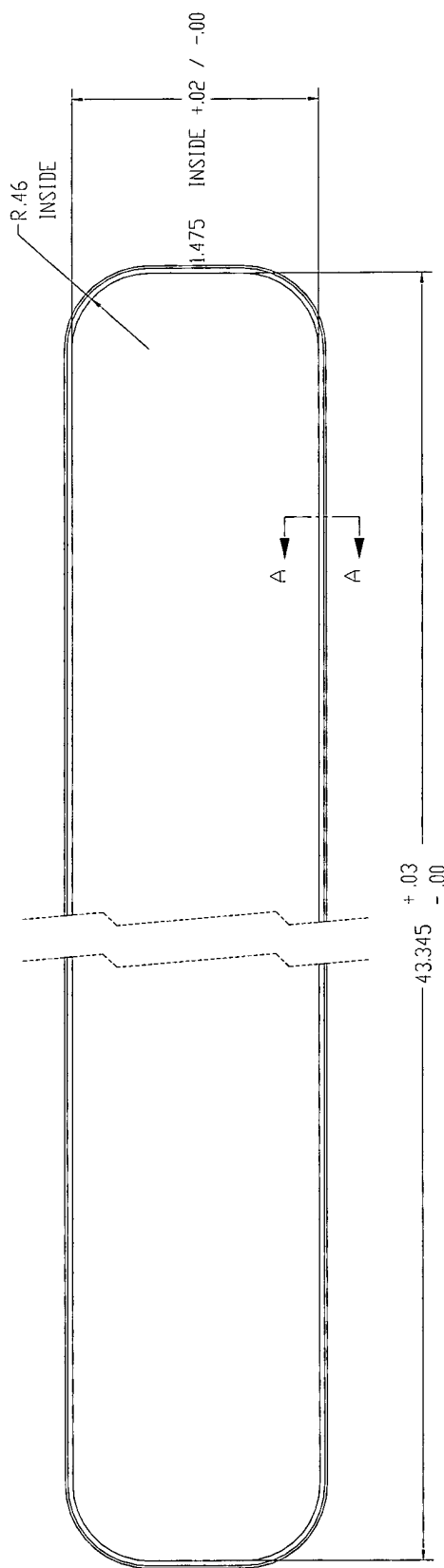
[illegible]

ITEM NO.	QTY.	PART NO.	DESCRIPTION
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2	1	1023047	PLATE, DIST. - LEVEL 4
3	1	1023048	PLATE, DIST. - LEVEL 5
4	1	1023049	PLATE, DIST. - LEVEL 6
5	1	1023050	PLATE, DIST. - LEVEL 7
6	1	1023051	PLATE, DIST. - SHEET FORMING
7	3	1023052	PIN, DOWEL 8MM X 20MM FULL DUTY
8	16	115702	SCREW, SHCS 1/8X1 X 25MM LP
9	1	1023042	PLATE, BREAKER/FILTER - SB SPINPACK
10	1	1023067	SEAL, BAND
11	1	1023068-03	SCREEN, WOVEN WIRE - FILTER
12	1	1023068-02	SCREEN, WOVEN WIRE - FILTER
13	1	1023068-01	SCREEN, WOVEN WIRE - FILTER
14	16	XXXX-1	NUT, HEX - M6
15	1		Spinpack Input/Spinbound Spinpack Input



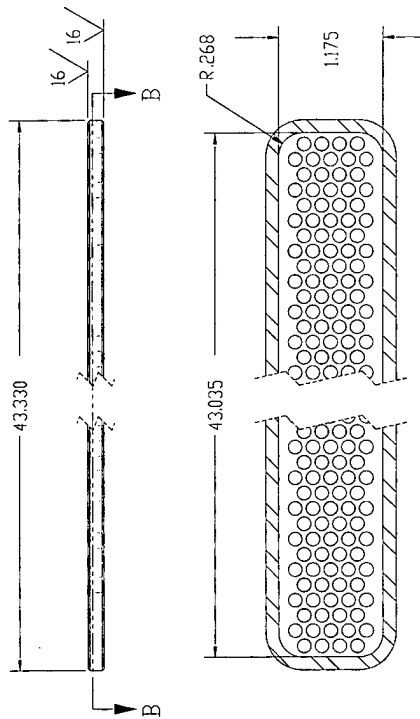
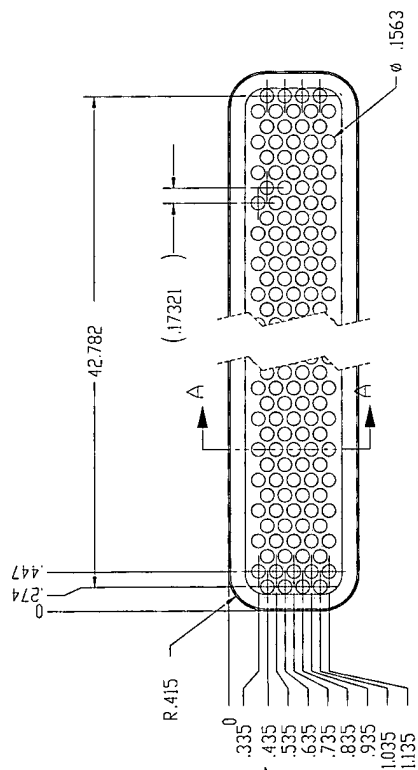
ITEM NO. 1023043		REV. 1	
NORDSON CORPORATION		NORDSON CORPORATION	
12000 W. 12th Avenue		12000 W. 12th Avenue	
Broomfield, Colorado 80021-4472		Broomfield, Colorado 80021-4472	
TEL. (303) 440-1000		TEL. (303) 440-1000	
FAX (303) 440-1001		FAX (303) 440-1001	
E-MAIL: SALES@NORDSON.COM		E-MAIL: SALES@NORDSON.COM	
WWW.NORDSON.COM		WWW.NORDSON.COM	
DO NOT SCALE. USE DIMENSIONS ONLY.		DO NOT SCALE. USE DIMENSIONS ONLY.	
FLOW EQUALIZER ASSEMBLY		FLOW EQUALIZER ASSEMBLY	
SPINBOUND SPINPACK		SPINBOUND SPINPACK	
REV. 1		REV. 1	
DATE: 10/15		DATE: 10/15	
DRAWN: SDC		DRAWN: SDC	
CHECKED: SDC		CHECKED: SDC	
APPROVED: SDC		APPROVED: SDC	
SHEET 1 OF 1		SHEET 1 OF 1	

1) MATERIAL: 3004 ALUMINUM

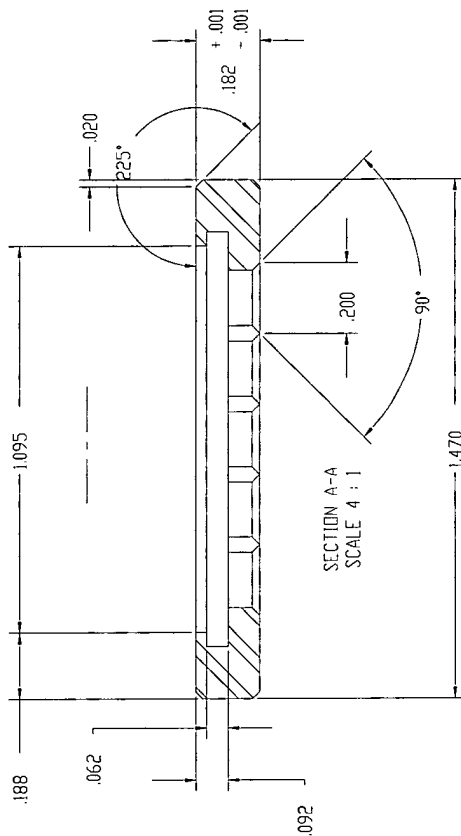
[illegible]

NOTES

- 1) MATERIAL: 17-4 PH DR 15-5
- 2) QTY: 3 PER NEXT ASSY



SECTION B-B



SECTION A-A
SCALE 4 : 1

C23042 ITEM PART NO.		Norden Corporation Filter Systems 12 Norden Drive Bassettville, Georgia 30534-6672 Phone: 404-429-4842 Fax: 404-429-4842	
Norden		DO NOT SCALE: USE DIMENSIONS ONLY	
PLATE, BREAKER/FILTER - SB SPINPACK		SIZE C23042 C	
DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
DESIGNED BY	DESIGNED BY	DESIGNED BY	DESIGNED BY
CHECKED BY	CHECKED BY	CHECKED BY	CHECKED BY
APPROVED	APPROVED	APPROVED	APPROVED
NEXT ASSEMBLY		NEXT ASSEMBLY	
ORDER NO.		ORDER NO.	
FRACTIONAL		FRACTIONAL	
UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED		UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED	
FRACTIONAL		FRACTIONAL	
MANUFACTURING AND		MANUFACTURING AND	
PRODUCTION		PRODUCTION	
REVISIONS		REVISIONS	
C 1		C 1	
B 1		B 1	
A 1		A 1	
REVISED UNDER		REVISED UNDER	
CHANGED - UNDER		CHANGED - UNDER	
INITIAL RELEASE		INITIAL RELEASE	
USER		USER	

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